THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Modernisation of the Army is an ongoing exercise. Plans in this regard are periodically reviewed and updated taking into consideration developments in our security environment. The strategic and technological contents of the Gulf war are tinder analysis, for initiation of appropriate action.

(b) Reliable information is not as yet available to suggest that Pakistan have acquired the ultra modern and precise weapon systems used in the Gulf War.

Setting up of a Research Station in Antarctica by Pakistan

683. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased ' to state:

(a) what is the reaction of the Antarctica Treaty Nations to the Indian proposal for a legally binding moratorium on min ing in Antarctica;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is also setting up a Research Station in Antarctica;

(c) if so, whether it has the approval of the Antarctica Treaty Nations; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that India's research operations and studies in that region aie not hampered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) There has been convergence of consensus on the basic elements of the Indian proposal and the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties have agreed to proposal for a 50-year prohibition on mining activities in Antarctica with specific provisions for review after that period.

(b) Yes, Sir. The first Pakistani scientific expedition to Antarctica was launched in December, 1990.

(c) No, Sir. Pakistan despatched its first expedition without making any move to join the Antarctic Treaty of 1959.

(d) Does not arise as India's research operations and studies in the region are not likely to be hampered.

Gallantry awards to Army personnel

684. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of DE FENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any gallantry awards were given to army personnel who took part in the Sri Lanka operation under the Indian Peace Keeping Force; and

(b) whether Government have honoured those army personnel who took part in the operation Blue Star in Punjab ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Appropriate awards were given to Defence Services personnel, in deserving cases of demonstrated gallantry, in these operations.

Production of ammunition for Swedish 155 MM field gun

685. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale production of sophisticated ammunition for the Swedish 155 MM field guns has since been undertaken in the country; and

(b) if so, what would be the extent of reduction of imports of ammunition and saving of the foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not Applicable.

Multinationals in sports goods industry

686. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in Financial Express. Delhi, dated 4th July, 1991 entitled "Sports Goods Industry—decision to bring in multinationals decried" indicating that the sports goods industry which predominently is of small sector nature employing more than 70. 000 workers exporting more than two-third of about Rs. 100 crore annual production is likely to be affected significantly